demonstrated in the Examples hereinafter. Moreover, as demonstrated in the Examples hereinafter, where the HGF gene is introduced into the heart in in vivo animal tests using rats, angiogenesis is observed. Therefore, the HGF gene is effective for the treatment and prevention of arterial disorders, in particular, various diseases caused by a disturbance which mainly involves abnormal proliferation of vascular smooth muscle cells (e.g., restenosis after percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), arteriosclerosis, insufficiency of peripheral circulation, etc.), and for the treatment and prevention of diseases such as myocardial infarction, ~~myocardial~~cardiomyopathy, peripheral angiostenosis, cardiac insufficiency, etc. HGF itself is also useful for the treatment and prevention of the diseases as described above, since HGF promotes the proliferation of vascular endothelial cells but does not promote the growth of vascular smooth muscle cells. The pharmacological effects of the HGF gene are attributed to those of HGF itself.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A method for treating a cardiovascular disease in a subject for which hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) is effective, comprising administering intracoronarily to the subject an expression vector containing a HGF gene in a therapeutically effective amount.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said expression vector is encapsulated in a liposome, the membrane of which may be further fused to attenuated Sendai virus particles.

9. **(New)** The method of claim 7, wherein said cardiovascular disease is restenosis after the percutaneous transluminal coronary agioplasty (PTCA), myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy or cardiac insufficiency.